

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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ULSTER COUNTY GETS INFUSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has made 300 additional Section 8 rental assistance vouchers available for residents of Ulster County. These vouchers, administered by Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO), will put \$1.2 million annually into the county's private housing market.

"This additional assistance is badly needed in Ulster County," said Hinchey. "The vouchers will allow 300 more families to afford a decent place to live. With RUPCO administering the program, I'm very confident the funds will be put to the most effective use possible."

RUPCO currently administers 710 vouchers in Ulster County through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's housing choice voucher program, commonly known as Section 8. One hundred percent of the available vouchers in the county are currently being used by families and individuals. The additional 300 vouchers will greatly reduce the waiting list of eligible applicants.

"This is the most significant allocation ever made to Ulster County," said Kathleen Maxwell, Executive Director of RUPCO. "The cost of housing greatly exceeds the typical household's ability to pay, so we are very grateful for this increase in assistance."

The housing choice voucher program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments and the landlord is provided with a guaranteed income. The participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects.